Scotland's Census 2021
Topic Event: Ethnicity, National Identity, Language and Religion

Thursday 20 April

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National Records of Scotland

Topic Event

14:00 to 14:45   Language in Scotland's Census 2021

14:45 to 15:00   Break

15:00 to 16:00   Language in Scotland's Census 2021

Today's event

- Follow-up to our [Topic Consultation](#), published in August 2016.

- The Topic Consultation asked a range of questions about the use of census data, whether this met user need, and what additional information users would like to be included in 2021 and why.

- We would like to follow up with users, and collect **more detailed information about user need from specific questions** for Scotland's Census 2021.

- We will be updating users on our progress in planning for Scotland's Census 2021 as we continue this process.

- Our final recommendations for Question Content will be made to Parliament in 2019

Today's event

- In order to capture this information today, we have provided an Ethnicity, National Identity, Language and Religion Topic hand-out

- Similar in format to the Topic Consultation

- If you did not fill in the Topic Consultation please fill this in

- This is also available online at

  ## www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/DTFSLWP

- There is **space provided at the back (or at the end online) for comments and feedback on anything that we cover in these slides**, so please use this space to give us your thoughts even if you do not answer the other questions.

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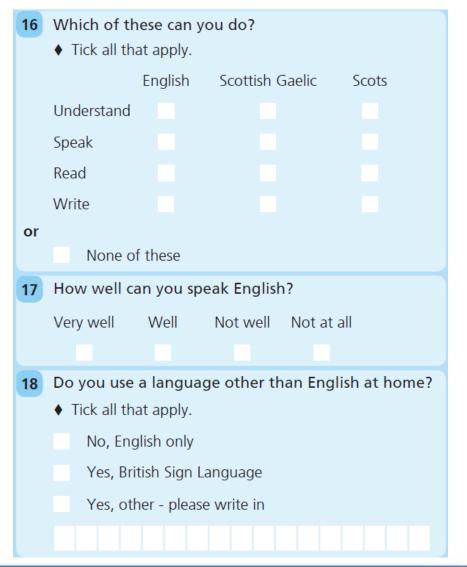# Language in the Census

- Overview of 2011 questions and quality and high level testing plans for each question

- English language skills feedback

- Break (14:45 – 15:00)

- Overview of proposed questions for testing

- Discussion and feedback on proposed questions

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2011 Questions

16 Which of these can you do?
♦ Tick all that apply.

	English	Scottish Gaelic	Scots
Understand	☐	☐	☐
Speak	☐	☐	☐
Read	☐	☐	☐
Write	☐	☐	☐

or

☐ None of these

17 How well can you speak English?

Very well	Well	Not well	Not at all
☐	☐	☐	☐

18 Do you use a language other than English at home?
♦ Tick all that apply.

☐ No, English only

☐ Yes, British Sign Language

☐ Yes, other - please write in

[   ]

- Language skills matrix

- Language proficiency

- Other languages

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Quality and Planning

- 2011 Census Quality Survey (CQS)

  - voluntary survey carried out after the census

  - measures the accuracy of responses in the census

- 2021 Planning

  - What are we considering for testing?

Language Skills Matrix

16 Which of these can you do?
   ◆ Tick all that apply.

	English	Scottish Gaelic	Scots
Understand	☐	☐	☐
Speak	☐	☐	☐
Read	☐	☐	☐
Write	☐	☐	☐

or

☐ None of these

- Gross agreement rate from the Census Quality Survey (CQS) = 84.6%

- Plans for testing:

  - Does splitting the matrix help the quality?

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Scottish Gaelic

- 99.5% agreement rate

- Good feedback from 2011 data

- Not planning to change*

Scots

- 88.5% agreement rate

- Known issues around interpretation

- Plans for testing:

  - Split from matrix

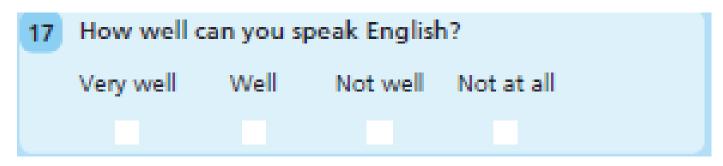 - Additional guidance, clarity around terminology

English Language Skills

- 95% agreement rate

- User need unclear

- Plans for testing:

  - Removing if there isn't strong user need

  - Split from matrix (if there is user need)

English Language Proficiency (Spoken)
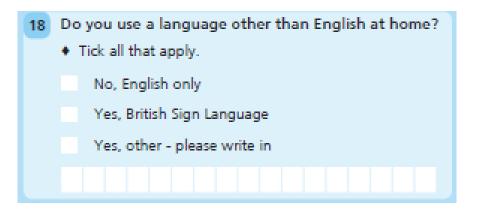
17 How well can you speak English?

Very well   Well   Not well   Not at all

☐   ☐   ☐   ☐

- 96.8% agreement rate

- No changes planned

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Other languages

18 Do you use a language other than English at home?
- Tick all that apply.

☐ No, English only

☐ Yes, British Sign Language

☐ Yes, other - please write in

☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

- 98.3% agreement rate

- ONS and NISRA asked 'Main Language'.

- Plans for testing:

  - Alternative wording (harmonising with ONS/NISRA)

  - British Sign Language Question

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British Sign Language

- 2015 British Sign Language Act

- Plans for testing:

  - A question!

  - A few alternative question designs

Feedback:
English Language Skills

16 Which of these can you do?
♦ Tick all that apply.

	English	Scottish Gaelic	Scots
Understand	☐	☐	☐
Speak	☐	☐	☐
Read	☐	☐	☐
Write	☐	☐	☐

or

☐ None of these

17 How well can you speak English?

Very well	Well	Not well	Not at all
☐	☐	☐	☐

- Do you use English language **skills** data?

- Please let us know on the feedback sheets available and give them to the facilitator at your table

- Would English language **proficiency** (spoken) be a good enough proxy?

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Break

14:45-15:00

Proposed Language Questions for testing

- On the tables in front of you are five 'sets' of proposed questions for testing

- Overview of the different sets

- Discussion and feedback

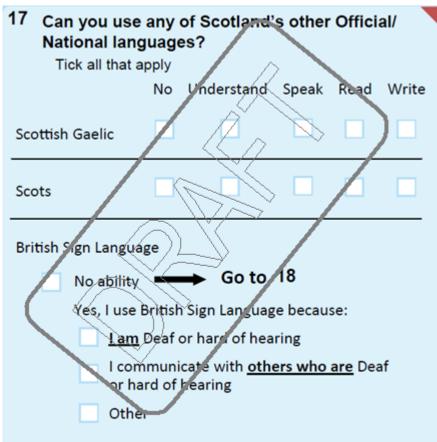- *Note: the 'sets' are for reference only and not restrictive*

All Sets

- For all sets the following applies:
  - The English language proficiency question is the same as in 2011 as no changes are planned for this question

  - The 'first/preferred' language question is always the same as further discussion is needed on this

Set 1 Q17

17 **Can you use any of Scotland's other Official/ National languages?**

Tick all that apply

	No	Understand	Speak	Read	Write
Scottish Gaelic	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐
Scots	☐	☐	☐	☐	☐

British Sign Language

☐ No ability → **Go to 18**

Yes, I use British Sign Language because:

☐ **I am** Deaf or hard of hearing

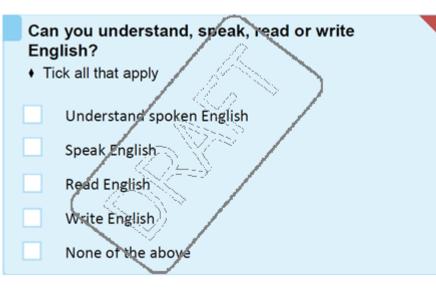☐ I communicate with **others who are** Deaf or hard of hearing

☐ Other

- There is no English language skills question here

- The matrix has been maintained for Scottish Gaelic and Scots
- The matrix has been rotated
- Lines have been added in the matrix

- British Sign Language question collecting ability by reason for use.

Set 2 Q15

Can you understand, speak, read or write English?

♦ Tick all that apply

☐ Understand spoken English

☐ Speak English

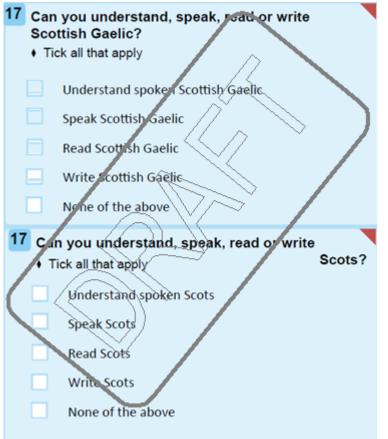☐ Read English

☐ Write English

☐ None of the above

DRAFT

- Set 2 is the same as Set 1 other than that Set 2 includes Q15

- Set 2 poses an option for if there is need for English language skills but we still need it removed from the matrix

- This is the same as the Welsh language skills question that was asked in Wales in 2011

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Set 3 Q17

17 **Can you understand, speak, read or write Scottish Gaelic?**
♦ Tick all that apply

☐ Understand spoken Scottish Gaelic
☐ Speak Scottish Gaelic
☐ Read Scottish Gaelic
☐ Write Scottish Gaelic
☐ None of the above

17 **Can you understand, speak, read or write Scots?**
♦ Tick all that apply

☐ Understand spoken Scots
☐ Speak Scots
☐ Read Scots
☐ Write Scots
☐ None of the above

- Complete removal of the matrix style question would result in something like this for Scottish Gaelic and Scots (and possibly English language skills)

- These are the same as the Welsh language skills question that was asked in Wales in 2011

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Set 3 Q18

18 Can you use British Sign Language?

- Yes ➡ Go to 19
- No ➡ Go to 20

19 Can you use British Sign Language because?

- You are Deaf or hard of hearing?
- You communicate with family/friends who are Deaf or hard of hearing?
- Other

- An alternative British Sign Language Question

- This question is in two parts
  - possibly avoids some confusion?

- 'family/friends' rather than 'others' (as in Sets 1 and 2)
  - is this important?

- Is there need to know about the 'other' group? What data is needed?

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Set 4 Q18

18 Can you use British Sign Language?

DRAFT

☐ Yes

☐ No

- As mentioned before, there are space constraints.

- Would this be able to be used along with the long-term illness data
  - **if** the need to find out about those who use British Sign Language because **they** are Deaf or hard of hearing?
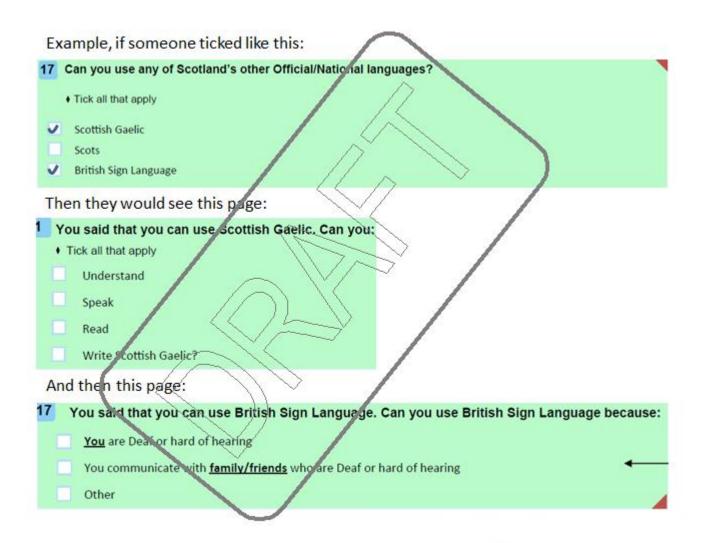
Set 1 (Online Version)

- Each green box represents a different page online

- The first and second 'page' are the same as in Set 1

- The black arrows indicate that respondents would only see the further questions about those which they ticked in Q17

Example, if someone ticked like this:

17 **Can you use any of Scotland's other Official/National languages?**

♦ Tick all that apply

- ☑ Scottish Gaelic
- ☐ Scots
- ☑ British Sign Language

Then they would see this page:

1 **You said that you can use Scottish Gaelic. Can you:**

♦ Tick all that apply

- ☐ Understand
- ☐ Speak
- ☐ Read
- ☐ Write Scottish Gaelic?

And then this page:

17 **You said that you can use British Sign Language. Can you use British Sign Language because:**

- ☐ **You** are Deaf or hard of hearing
- ☐ You communicate with **family/friends** who are Deaf or hard of hearing   ←
- ☐ Other

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Discussion

- Please let us know what you think!

- Feel free to write on the question sheets, post it notes and flipchart paper provided

- If you have any questions ask the facilitator/note taker at your table or ask me as I'm walking round

Feedback

- Question order

- Changes to the matrix

- What data is **needed** from the British Sign Language Question?

- Wording/terminology

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Thank you!

- Thanks for your feedback on our proposed questions for testing.

- We'd like to ask you to fill in a short feedback form on this event put it in the box when you've completed it.

- Please also put your badge in the 'badge return' box on your way out.

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